EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress.

Conference Number

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

ALVA BELMONT HOUSE, *National Headquarters*

Capitol Hill—Washington, D. C.

DECEMBER 14-15

December 1, 1937

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and the adherence of the United States to the Equal Rights Treaty. The Woman's Party also supports the proposed Equality Amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

THE PROPOSED EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Art. 1—Men and women shall Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Art. 2—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced

Senate—By Senator Townsend (Del.), and Senator Burke, (Neb.), Feb. 5, 1937, (Senate Joint Resolution No. 65).

House—By Representative Ludlow, (Ind.), Jan. 5, 1937, (House Joint Resolution No. 1).

Present Status

Senate—Before Judiciary Committee; favorable report by sub-judiciary committee June 28, 1937.

House—Before Judiciary Committee; favorable report by sub-judiciary committee June 16, 1937.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

"Art. 1—The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed

By Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay, at Montevido, December, 1933.

PROPOSED EQUALITY AMENDMENTS TO COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries the right of vote shall not be denied or abridged on the ground of sex."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice regarding nationality."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields."

"The members of the League undertake that there shall be both men and women, with full voting powers, in all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League."

Present Status

On agenda of the September, 1937, Assembly of the League of Nations.

Our National Conference

BIENNIALLY, the Woman's Party holds a national convention. Biennially, alternating with the conventions, the Woman's Party holds a national conference. Mrs. Sarah T. Pell, National Chairman, has called such a conference for December 14-15 in Washington, D. C. This gathering is of vital importance at this time when the demand of women throughout the United States for adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is becoming insistent.

Since the last national conference held in Columbus, Ohio, sentiment for the Amendment has resulted in many other national organizations throwing the weight of their influence into the campaign. The movement has suddenly taken form, as did the suffrage movement 20 years ago, when even during a war the tide could not be turned back in its onward rush to victory. The righteousness of the cause and the determination of thinking women throughout the United States to win complete equality with men in a Democracy where it is still denied them, are a combination that cannot be discounted.

Woman's Party leaders will take stock and make their plans for action accordingly. They have builded carefully and soundly, and will proceed in *practical* fashion, knowing full well that these are not the times for visionary theories where women are concerned.

For women, international and national morale are at low ebb. The status of women in some countries is *no status at all.* Working women in the United States are now rallying to the standard of the Equal Rights Amendment in great numbers, probably because through their education, training, experience and contacts they are aware of what is happening.

The Woman's Party has charted a straight course in its work for women, and throughout the years it has never deviated from it, because its members are convinced that it is sound. The events of recent years have only strengthened them in that conviction.

The scheduled national conference is of especial significance at this time, for it will bring together many of those whose selfless devotion to the cause of women has recognized no barriers. They have looked only to the goal of equal rights between men and women.

Women of the National Woman's Party have been truly pioneers—and it is not an easy matter to be a pioneer. How many women who vote today would have ascended the steps of the Capitol in Washington year after year as did the pioneer Susan B. Anthony, asking Congress to enfranchise members of her sex? How many would have braved the jeers of an unsympathetic populace as she did to ask justice for women? Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others of their day *knew* what it was to be pioneers, but how many of those who honor them today would have followed them?

It is an easy matter to drift with the stream, but it takes courage to pioneer up stream for a principle you are convinced is right. And for that reason it is of special significance when members of the National Woman's Party hold a national conference. They have an immediate objective—an amendment to the Constitution of the United States reading: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." At the conference to be held December 14-15 in the nation's capital, plans will be made for the coordination of forces and a nation-wide campaign to place this guarantee to women in the Constitution, where such fundamental rights are guaranteed other citizens.

National Woman's Party Biennial Conference

THE highlight of the biennial conference of the National Woman's Party called for December 14-15 in Washington, D. C., by the National Chairman, Mrs. Sarah Thompson Pell, will be the banquet at Hotel Carlton on the evening of December 14. On this occasion the speakers will be Vera Brittain, renowned British author and journalist; United States Senator Edward R. Burke, of Nebraska, who with Senator Townsend of Delaware is a sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Senate, and Raymond Gram Swing, distinguished writer and radio commentator. Mrs. Pell will preside.

Linking the past with the present, Betty Gram Swing, of the National Council, is to speak at the luncheon meeting scheduled for the second day of the Conference at historic Cameron House on Lafayette Square, at one time national headquarters of the Woman's Party. Mrs. Swing issued the following invitation to her co-workers of the Suffrage campaign of twenty years ago, reading in part:

"This is a call to the colors—the old colors—purple, white and gold that you so valiantly held aloft in the now historic march to the White House. You are not being asked again to shoulder your banner and go forth, but to come to a reunion to be held in Washington on the occasion of a conference, December 14, 15, 1937.

"An occasion in a series of meetings will be the luncheon in beautiful old Cameron House, now the Cosmos Club, our headquarters in 1916-17, from which so many of us emerged to experience some of the great moments of our lives—our own realistic contribution in that long fight for woman's freedom.

"Today that freedom is being threatened. Of course, full freedom has never been obtained. The vote which was our main objective in the days of our picketing, did open the door of our political emancipation, but we have yet to enter the room of that long desired equality.

"Twenty years have elapsed since those thrilling days. Come and let us talk them over; let us recapture some of those moments at Cameron House so dear to us all. We have a bond no years can break; we have a fire which neither time nor tide can extinguish, otherwise you and I would never have joined in those days when it was not easy to be among the damned, the ridiculed."

SARAH THOMPSON PELL, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, ISSUES CALL FOR DECEMBER 14-15 WASHINGTON, D. C.

CALL TO CONFERENCE

Dear Woman's Party Member:

You are urged to come to the 1937 Conference of the National Woman's Party, at the National Headquarters, Alva Belmont House, 144 B Street, N. E., Washington, D. C., Tuesday and Wednesday, December 14 and 15.

The first session, open to members of the Party, will be at two o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, at Alva Belmont House, and will continue on Wednesday morning at nine o'clock.

The Conference Banquet, open to members and guests, will be at the Hotel Carlton, Sixteenth and K Streets, Tuesday evening, December 14, at seven-thirty. Reservations, two dollars. The speakers will be:

Vera Brittain, noted British author and journalist.

Senator Edward R. Burke, sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment in the United States Senate.

Raymond Gram Swing, distinguished international radio commentator.

Vera Brittain, as you no doubt know, is one of the outstanding feminists of Great Britain, author of "Testament of Youth" and other brilliant books. We are privileged to have her with us on this occasion, which we ask you to help make a memorable one.

The luncheon, also open to members and guests, Wednesday, December 15 at twelve-thirty, will be held at the Cosmos Club on Madison Place. Luncheon tickets, one dollar. This historic building, known to us as Cameron House, was our headquarters in suffrage days. From here the victorious campaign with banners—for the freedom of women—was launched on January 9, 1917. The reunion at this time is held here for the purpose of advancing the Lucretia Mott Equal Rights Amendment, which is the logical sequence to the Suffrage Amendment. The occasion will also inspire us with memories of the fight for political freedom, and the strength and devoted purpose which went into the winning of the Susan B. Anthony Federal Suffrage Amendment.

During the twenty years which have elapsed, the purple, white and gold banners that marched forth from Cameron House have become a symbol of the principle of Equality of men and women before the law and in all human relationships.

The world-wide need for the establishment of Equal Rights is clearer today than ever before, both nationally and internationally.

I hope you will arrange to come to Washington at this time to join in our demand for freedom for women within our own country, and as presented in Geneva through the continuing vision and courage of Alice Paul.

Faithfully yours,

SARAH THOMPSON PELL,
National Chairman.

Please send reservations at once to headquarters for both the banquet and luncheon, for yourself and as many friends as you will bring. Please let us know *now* the names of your guests and the number of places you wish to reserve.

On the committee arranging for the luncheon and program on which speakers of note will appear, are Ella Werner, Merle Rhine, Joy Webster, Sheldon Jackson, Gertrude Crocker, Mary Dean Powell, Aurelle Burnside, Helen McGerr, Dr. Anna Bartsch Dunne, and others. Acting as toastmistress at the luncheon will be Amelia Himes Walker, of Maryland, former chairman of the Maryland Branch, Woman's Party, and a former member of the National Council. Mrs. Walker was one of those sentenced to the workhouse for her suffrage activities twenty years ago.

On the national Conference Committee, Mrs. Pell, Chairman, has appointed Laura Berrien, Georgia; Elsie Hill, Connecticut; Martha Souder, Pennsylvania; Anita Pollitzer, South Carolina; Mrs. Frederick L. Ransome, California; Edwina Avery, Washington, D. C.; Betty Gram Swing, New York; Jane Norman Smith, New York; Rebekah S. Greathouse, District of Columbia; Helen Hunt West, Florida.

Betty Gram Swing and Mildred Curran, District of Columbia, comprise the banquet committee.

Helen Robbins Bitterman, of Columbus, Ohio, will preside at the opening business session of the Conference to be held Tuesday afternoon, December 14, at 2 o'clock, the Wednesday morning business session to be presided over by Adelaide Stedman, of New York.

Both sessions will be held in the old Coach House of Alva Belmont House.

Bringing to a close the 1937 Conference an informal

(Continued on Page 176)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

By Katherine Devereux Blake

EDITOR'S NOTE: Katherine Devereux Blake, author of this article, needs no introduction to readers of Equal Rights. The distinguished daughter of a distinguished mother, she is known chiefly for her work for peace and for women. In this article she gives her own testimony and that of her mother, Lillie Devereux Blake, who with Isabella Beecher Hooker, issued the call to the Woman Suffrage Convention held in Washington in 1869.

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE to correct hastily written or biased history. When possible, it should be done while yet a few who remember the facts are still living and can give their testimony.

I was but a child when I first saw Elizabeth Cady Stanton and felt the charm of her sweetness and brilliancy, and I am unwilling to remain silent and see the honor which rightfully belongs to her given to another who never really *led* in the struggle for women's emancipation. Mrs. Stanton's birthday, November 12, 1815, should be celebrated with gratitude each year by women everywhere.

She was a growing girl when her older brother, a brilliant youth, untimely died. Her father, whom she adored, mourned so deeply that she determined to be worthy to take her brother's place and make her father proud of her. She read and studied eagerly, learned to ride as fearlessly on her absurd side saddle as had her big brother on his safer one. At that age she did not realize the utter insignificance of woman in those early days. When she joyously ran home with her prize for Greek, exclaiming triumphantly, "There, I got it!" her father looked pleased, but as he kissed her, he sighed, "You should have been a boy," and the glory of the prize was gone.

She often sat studying in her father's library when women in trouble came to consult the distinguished Judge Cady, and she never forgot their tears as too often they sobbed out their tales of cruelty and brutality. It was after one of these scenes, while she was but a child, that she told her aunt that she was going to cut those wicked laws out of her father's law books. Her father then explained to her the long process that was necessary to take those bad laws out of all the law books. He little realized that she who stood beside him would, as time went on, erase some of them.

As Elizabeth grew older, the young students who read law with her father delighted to tease the charming girl by digging up the worst laws they could find and telling her what her future husband could legally do to her. All this strengthened her determination to do what she could to change the laws when she grew up.

After a gay girlhood, she married, in 1840, Henry Brewster Stanton, a prominent abolitionist, soon after elected to the New York State Senate. He helped in the organization of the Republican Party, and was a member of the staff of the New York Tribune and an editor of the New York Sun until his death.

On their honeymoon they went to the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London, where Mr. Stanton was chosen the Secretary of that great meeting. It was then that Mrs. Stanton met Lucretia Mott, who, though sent as one of the American Delegation, was not permitted to speak or even to sit with the delegates. The Europeans were shocked that any woman could be sent as a delegate, for woman's place was home. Yet, in that home, the common law of England decreed that a man had the right to beat his wife with a stick no bigger than his thumb.

The years that followed the bridal journey were filled with the manifold duties of a young wife and mother. Elizabeth Stanton's husband was a political leader and she met the great men of her day, and discussed events with them, and learned ever more and more of the hardships of the life of an unprotected woman.

On July 14, 1848, Lucretia Mott was visiting her sister, Martha Wright, in Seneca Falls. That afternoon, Mrs. Richard Hunt invited Mary Ann McClintock, Martha C. Wright and Mrs. Stanton to meet Mrs. Mott. Quite naturally their conversation turned to the condition of women. Then suddenly the pent up feeling of years burst forth from Mrs. Stanton. She described it thus:

> "I poured out the torrent of my discontent with such vehemence and indigation that I stirred myself as well as the rest of the party to do and dare anything . . . We wrote the call that evening."

It was published the next day in the Seneca newspaper, and received wide publicity. Four days later, on July 19 and 20, 1848, the convention took place. Those four days before the convention were filled with discussion and work as they planned the statement to be adopted.

They were unfamiliar with the usual procedure, but finally decided that they would take the Declaration of Independence as their model, and list their many grievances before asking what they wished. At the end of their deliberations Elizabeth thought it out at home and at the subsequent meeting startled them by her daring when she offered this unheard of demand:—

> "RESOLVED, That it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise."

So new a thought was this, so tremendous the step suggested, that Lucretia Mott, brave as she was, exclaimed, "Why, Lizzie, Thee will make us ridiculous." Nevertheless, Elizabeth persisted, and in the end, after much discussion, her resolution was adopted in the convention by a small majority and became part of the Women's Declaration of Independence.

In reply to the call, more than one hundred people came to the church in which the meeting was held. It was an earnest gathering, carefully considering each motion that was made. When the account appeared in the papers, then the storm broke, a violent explosion of wrath, indignation, abuse, ridicule. The women who believed such things had unsexed themselves—they were crowing hens. It is difficult to understand the rancor of those early days. Apparently every man felt his personal comfort and honor threatened. Not till the women of some of the Western States had won their place as full citizens, did the storm abate and the cartoonists begin to represent the suffragist as pretty and attractive and the antis as dull and old fashioned.

Miss Susan B. Anthony did not take any part in call-

ing the 1848 Seneca Falls convention, nor was she present at it. On the contrary, she laughed at the account of it in the papers and it took much persuasion, after she met Mrs. Stanton, to induce her to join in the work in 1851.

In 1869 the Woman Suffrage Convention was held in Washington for the first time. There, Mrs. Stanton, just as she had in 1848, introduced a new thought when in her speech she asked for an amendment to the Constitution granting the vote to the women in America. At each convention thereafter resolutions were adopted asking for this, but no further action was taken till 1878. That year Miss Anthony went on a trip to the far west with her brother, while Mrs. Stanton was on a lecture tour.

My mother and Isabella Beecher Hooker together issued the call for a convention, and my mother sent an urgent telegram to Mrs. Stanton, who was in St. Louis, that she must come to the convention. She came. While in Washington, she stayed at the home of Senator Sargent of California. At the opening session of the convention, January 8, 1878, she made an ardent speech calling for a Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The next day, at her request, Senator Sargent introduced the Joint Resolution proposing an Amendment to the Constitution, as follows:

> Article 16, Sec. 1—The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
>
> Sec. 2—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

On January 11 and 12, the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, of which Senator Sargent was Chairman, granted two hearings to the National Woman Suffrage Association, at which Elizabeth Cady Stanton made the leading speech, a grand document replete with quotations from noted legal authorities bearing on the question and supporting her argument. There were many other speakers, for Mrs. Stanton was always generous to bring forward younger women.

At a prodigious sacrifice of personal comfort, the heroic suffragists toured the country in those long ago days when the seats in the slow moving railway trains were high, hard and uncomfortable, and sometimes ox carts were the only means of locomotion. Mrs. Stanton's letters tell of her ludicrous experiences; through the most untoward happenings she retained her cheerfulness and her gay sense of humor.

During all the years from 1848 until almost the end of the century, her brains were the driving force of the movement. She wrote the luminous legal documents for presentation to legislatures and to the two branches of Congress; many are on file in the New York City Public Library. She and Miss Anthony worked together over their speeches, and, at the beginning, Miss Anthony often merely read one of Mrs. Stanton's speeches and then made the plea for money. She was a wonderful money raiser, and a fine manager. These two women together made a marvelous combination, and honor should go to each, yet it was Mrs. Stanton's vivid imagination that ever pointed the way for the next step in the hotly contended struggle for "woman's emancipation."

The first pamphlet issued by the National Council of Women, telling of the origin of the International Council, says it was Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton "who, in 1882, conceived the idea of an International Association of Women for the advocacy of woman suffrage." This idea was continuously discussed at various conventions both here and in Europe until, at the Washington Convention, in January, 1887, it was decided to convene at International Council of Women. It met in Washington on March 24, 1888, and was attended by leading women from all over the world, a remarkable and distinguished gathering. Frances Willard was elected the first president, and the following year May Wright Sewall became president of the National Council of Women.

Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony, warm friends and magnificent co-workers as they were, differed fundamentally on methods to secure the emancipation they both so ardently desired. Miss Anthony wanted to confine all efforts to securing the vote, ignoring rights, for she believed that they would come with political liberty. Mrs. Stanton from her earliest years had learned of the wrongs under which so many women lived, and the sad stories she heard in every town in which she spoke made her realize that those wrongs could not wait years for the long delayed vote to right them, so she approved every effort of women to better their conditions. She was always ready to help in the changes in the laws in New York State that were introduced by my mother, Lillie Devereux Blake, and she appeared before many state legislatures in behalf of the laws to benefit women.

She had a magnificent courage; the courage of being right. The cause of the lowly was always hers. The Negro was her friend in all her work for him. She even dared interpret the Bible as a woman would see it, in spite of the strong objections of Miss Anthony who was always trying to make Mrs. Stanton more willing to accept the status quo in all things except the voteless condition of women. Against this Mrs. Stanton frequently rebelled, as for instance in this letter published by her son, Theodore, and her daughter, Harriot Stanton Blatch, in their book "Elizabeth Cady Stanton. 1815-1902."

"Jan'y 10, 1880

> "Dear Susan—You have not made me take your position. I repudiate it from the bottom of my soul. It is conservative, autocratic, to the last degree . . . Ah, beware, Susan, lest as you become 'respectable', you become conservative.
>
> E. C. S."

Mrs. Stanton foresaw that with the demand for the vote becoming respectable, women's rights would be forgotten, and, after achievement, each of the necessary rights would need years of struggle before success was won.

We all know how the women have asked for years to be permitted to serve as jurors, a right only just made legal in New York, and still lacking in many states. Mrs. Stanton continued to shock conservatives by discussing divorce, women's rights in the church, the rights of the Negro, the rights of the oppressed everywhere. From a political standpoint doubtless Miss Anthony was correct, but from that of human rights, time has shown that Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the true leader and prophet of the woman's cause.

My personal memories of Mrs. Stanton are delightful. I count her as quite the most charming woman I ever met, and I have known many attractive and lovely women. In every phase of life she stood pre-eminent; an obedient and loving daughter, a fascinating society girl, wife who was a true helpmate, a devoted mother, a convincing writer, irresistible in argument, for right was ever on her side; she was an adored leader. Of no other woman of her time and since could so much be said.

Brazil Ratifies Equal Nationality Treaty

Doris Stevens, Chairman of the Inter American Commission of Women, has been notified by the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, of the ratification by Brazil on September 30 of the Convention on the Nationality of Women. This brings the total number of ratifications of this convention to nine, others being, in the order named: the United States, Chile, Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Guatemala, Ecuador and Nicaragua.

The letter to Miss Stephens follows:

MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

Rio de Janeiro,
September 30, 1937.

LA/SN/602.5(20)
Convention on the Nationality
of Women, Montevideo, 1933.

Madam Chairman:

I have the honor of notifying Your Excellency that Congress, by decree No. 111, of September 24, published in the *Diario Oficial* of the Republic on the 27th of the same month, has approved the Convention on the Nationality of Women signed in Montevideo on December 26, 1933.

On this occasion I also inform you that the instrument of ratification is being prepared and as soon as Brazil shall have ratified the afore-mentioned Convention, I shall notify you.

I take this opportunity to express once more to Your Excellency my highest esteem.

(Signed) C. DE OURO PRETO,
Secretary General.

Order Your Copy

NOW and THEN, a picture magazine with offices at 507 Fifth Avenue, New York City, announces that its January 1 issue will contain pictures of the suffrage and equal rights campaigns which will be of great interest to members of the National Woman's Party.

Copies are available at the above address or your own newsdealer. Order your copy now, so that the NOW and THEN of the Suffrage and Equal Rights movements may be secured as a souvenir.

Libraries, schools and colleges which often ask for pictures of the suffrage campaign, will undoubtedly be glad to take occasion to order copies.

Attention Pickets!

A request has been made that all who picketed the White House during the Suffrage campaign send their names and addresses, and those of any others of that group whom they know to National Headquarters, 144 B Street, Northeast, Washington, D. C., for the permanent record, which is being complied. This information should be sent at once. It is hoped in this way to preserve the record in complete form, with present addresses of those who participated.

Miss Brown Maryland Chairman

Helen Elizabeth Brown, of Baltimore, has been elected president of the Maryland Branch, National Woman's Party.

Miss Brown's work with the Maryland Branch has been outstanding and she brings to the office experience and ability that will prove valuable in the campaign to secure immediate passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by the next session of Congress.

Fru Betzy Kjelsberg Speaks

Fru Betzy Kjelsberg, president of the Norwegian Council of women, vice-president of the International Council of Women and known throughout the world as the outstanding woman of Norway, spoke informally on the status of women in her country, Friday afternoon, November 19 at a tea at Alva Belmont House. Sharing honors with Fru Kjelsberg was Madame de Morgenstierne, wife of the Norwegian Minister.

Fifty-three years ago, Madame Kjelsberg, began her work for equal rights. Wearing a decoration with which the King of Norway knighted her on her seventieth birthday and a gold medal of honor presented to her by her Government, she proudly displayed a third treasure, a Susan B. Anthony button given to her by the pioneer American suffragist in Berlin in 1904 on the occasion of the meeting of the International Congress of Women.

She said that women of Norway have almost complete equality and added that they were determined that it should be complete. Speaking of their opposition to protective laws for women, she said "Only last summer the question of restrictions on women as to working hours was brought up, as it was here in labor legislation. A law was proposed which would have prohibited them from working after 9 at night. The women who fish on the West Coast protested that herring had to be taken care of when it was brought in; the women who did janitor work at night, the telephone operators and women in many other lines of work which required night duty raised a united voice of protest that such a law would cost them their livelihood, and the measure was defeated. We will not have it.

"With much unemployment throughout the world, we must stand united and firm in keeping the place we have won. It is sad that in Germany there is now no Council of Women, when that was one of the first four to come in."

Fru Kjelsberg, who will visit Chicago and the Pacific Coast, will return to Washington for another brief visit before sailing for Norway, where she has been Government Chief Factory Inspector for twenty-six years.

Asked if she felt after years of factory inspection that women were physically too weak for factory work, she nodded her head in the negative saying, "In the factories I have seen so many weak men."

Fru Kjelsberg was introduced by her friend, Dr. Emma Wold, who was technical adviser to the United States Delegation to the International Conference for the Codification of International Law.

What Better Christmas Gift?

What better Christmas gift for a woman than a subscription to Equal Rights?

Through Equal Rights you may inform her concerning her status under the law and in the economic field, which means the conditions under which she lives.

Through Equal Rights you may inform her how to help to better her status and that of her daughter, her granddaughter and other women of future generations.

Send in $1 for each subscription you desire to give as a Christmas gift, together with the names of those to whom you desire that Equal Rights be sent, and we will notify them in time for Christmas.

Make your contribution to the cause and at the same time make your gift a *real* gift—a woman's gift to a woman!

League Revision Committee To Study Status Of Women

The question of women's status has been accepted by the committee which is considering revision of the League Covenant as a suitable subject for the agenda of its meeting in December.

It has been the contention of organized women that nothing in the present constitution of the League is more unsatisfactory than the mission of any definition as to the civil and political position which women hold, both in the League itself and in the affairs of its member states.

Accordingly five international groups, which constitute the consultative committee of the women's international organization, reinforced by three other international groups and together representing more than 40,000,000 women from all parts of the world, drafted a letter which was handed to Maurice Bourquin, chairman of the Committee on Revision of the League.

Four Additions Considered

The letter advocated four possible additions to the Covenant which women urged the committee to consider. These covered inclusion in the Covenant of a declaration of equality between men and women in regard to nationality, political status, rights in all other fields and membership with equal voting powers on all delegations to the League and to conferences under League auspices.

"We urge," the women's letter declared, "with all the earnestness at our command that your committee give careful consideration to these amendments. We believe they would put the League upon a more democratic basis than at present—would make it more representative of all the people.

Women a Force for Peace

"We believe these amendments would mean a big advance toward peace because they would give more power to perhaps the greatest peace force existing—the thought of women half of the world.

"We believe it is in keeping with the high ideals for which the League was founded to write into the Covenant this recognition of the right to freedom and equality of half the people of the world."

In receiving the deputation which presented the letter, Mr. Bourquin promised to give the suggested additions equal considerations with various proposals put forward by the governments of member states—Geneva Correspondent, *Christian Science Monitor.*

The Individual Best Fitted

"The Readers for The Mother Church shall be a man and a woman, one to read the Bible, and one to read Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures."—(Church Manual, Article II, Section I, page 29.)

"From this date the Sunday services of our denomination shall be conducted by Readers in lieu of pastors. Each church, or society formed for Sunday worship, shall elect two Readers; a male and a female."—(Miscellaneous Writings, page 314, lines 3-6.)

"The report that I prefer to have a man, rather than a woman, for First Reader in the Church of Christ, Scientist, I desire to correct. My preference lies with the individual best fitted to perform this important function. If both the First and Second Readers are my students, then without reference to sex I should prefer that student who is most spiritually-minded."—(Miscellany, page 249, lines 22-28.)

—From Writings of Mary Baker Eddy.

Illinois Eight-Hour Law

The results of passage of the Illinois "8-Hour Law for Women" are just as we predicted, as indicated by the following excerpt from the Herald and Examiner:

"A survey indicated that there are executive posts (in the hotel business, for example) where it is imperative that more than eight hours a day be spent at work. In these cases the only recourse has been to *replace women with men.* * * * We are getting some grumbling, principally from women in the higher positions, who are thrown out of work by the limits of the law, and find it difficult to get jobs with commensurate compensation."

"The law is good," said Miss Kate O'Connor, state superintendent of women's and children's employment, "because it tends to stabilize labor conditions."

The article was headed "8-Hour Law Is a *Boon* to Women," yet from the statements as quoted it appears to be anything but a boon and a stabilizer. Do they mean that throwing women out of good paid jobs and making hourly-paid employes finish in eight hours what they used to pay them 9 hours for, is a fair, square, and honest thing to do?

No doubt many women are already sorry that they did not work vigorously against the bill. The women who have the better-paid positions are those that have worked hardest to get them. Now because of their efforts they are penalized by losing their jobs. AND THEY CALL THAT PROGRESS!

We have received letters from many women—some from small towns. They all tell the same kind of story—either that they have been dismissed or that they must do the same amount of work in eight hours with a reduction in pay, especially those who are on an hourly basis or do piece work. Letters from two young women in different towns stated that their wages had been reduced $25 and $30 a month because of the time restriction. They are wondering how they can meet increased costs of living with decreased pay envelopes. Perhaps it takes something like this to awaken women to the need of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

One incident, which would be laughable were it not so serious to the woman concerned, happened when we were asking women to sign our petition against the Eight-Hour Bill. This particular woman was in a position to do some good work for the cause, but thought it would be fine if women could be made to work only eight hours in any one day. We suggested that as she had to work more than eight hours some day she might lose her job. Still she could not get our idea of the eight-hour law. She has already lost her job on account of the eight-hour law!

And so the cases are piling up. We are making a list of all the cases that come to our attention so as to use them to make it possible to get this vicious legislation off the statute books. If you know of any specific cases where women have lost their jobs or their pay has been cut because of this law, we should be pleased to get this specific information, and will hold all names of persons thus involved in the strictest confidence unless we are given permission to use them. Government bureaus seem to be able to remain in utter darkness as to actual cases of women who have lost their jobs as a direct result of this form of legislation. Mary Anderson, of the Woman's Bureau in Washington, claims that there are no cases on record to show that women have lost their jobs because of special legislation. Ignorance is bliss!—*Bulletin of Illinois Council, Business and Professional Women.*

National Woman's Party Biennial Conference

(Continued from Page 171).

reception will be held at National Headquarters. Receiving the guests will be members of the National Council.

Many women of prominence in various fields of endeavor will be in Washington for the Conference. Gains of the past year will be reviewed and plans for the conduct of the Equal Rights Amendment campaign will be discussed and outlined. The campaign, which is rapidly gaining momentum throughout the United States, will then move forward on both the state and national fronts, sudden crystallization of sentiment for the Amendment having rallied to the cause vast numbers of women who are now becoming active in pressing the demand for immediate action.

It is expected that the Woman's Party National Conference will be equivalent to the firing of the first gun in the campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in the regular session of Congress.

Ill Considered Gallantry

Iowa business and professional women and, presumably, their contemporaries throughout the nation, are irked—and quite justifiably—as a result of some of the legislation proposed "in their behalf."

Some of the fantastic proposals of the lawmakers are wolves in sheep's clothing that would make it increasingly difficult for women to earn an honest penny. There was, for instance, the proposed addendum to the senate wage and hour bill which sought to prohibit the work of women at night.

This proposal probably originated with some lawmaker who fancied himself a champion of the weaker sex, a sort of combination of Galahad, Raleigh and Gable. It was a gallant gesture, but a gesture that would have thrown out of employment hundreds of thousands of nurses, telephone and telegraph operators, newspaper workers, entertainers, etc. Even the charwomen who clean offices while cities sleep would have been deprived of their jobs.

Iowa Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs are discussing the growing threat to their economic security in their district meetings. Their national group indorsed the equal rights amendment at its last convention.

These women protest being grouped with children in social legislation. They point out that if sex discriminations are made in wage and hour legislation, women would become less desirable as employes. Rosa E. Cunningham, of Des Moines, points out in a recent issue of *"The Iowa Business Woman"* that "No employer will be bothered with women employes whose work is regulated by law unless they work for such a low wage that it will compensate him for the extra expense required to comply with the regulations."

There is little doubt but that these proposals to inject sex discrimination in wage and hour legislation would work a great injustice upon millions of women throughout the country. If modern man's efforts at gallantry were to be placed end to end, they would probably be recognized as one of modern woman's most formidable hurdles in her struggle for equal rights. Sir Walter Raleigh literally paved the way for a lot of trouble for women.—*Waterloo (Iowa) Courier,* November 17, 1937.

International Promise On The Rights Of Women

The Government of Mexico promises internationally to grant Mexican women the duties and rights of citizenship. The proceeding is shown by a communique which the Department of Foreign Affairs addressed to the Chamber of Deputies and which the Chamber in turn handed over for study and decision to the Commission of the Interior, the text of which is as follows:

"C. Members of the Chamber of Deputies, City:

I am honored to make known to you that on December 19, 1936, the Mexican delegation to the Inter American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace, held in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, approved a resolution, the terms of which will be inserted farther along, the object of which was to define the rights and duties of women.

"The aforesaid resolution says textually the following: 'To recommend to the governments of the American Republics that they adopt the most adequate legislation in order to recognize completely the rights and duties of citizenship for women.' "

Because of this communication directed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and because of other circumstances to which we shall refer later, it is affirmed in political circles of the Capital that before General Lázaro Cárdenas ends his presidential term, citizenship will be given to Mexican women and therefore they will be able to vote and be elected to posts by popular election.—Excelsior, Mexico, D. F., October 22, 1937.

Labor Organizations Endorse Amendment

Maryland organizations of industrial workers rallying to the support of the Equal Rights Amendment include: The Steel Workers Organizing Committee, the American Communications Association and the International Ladies' Garment Workers of America.

News of these endorsements comes to Equal Rights through Alma Harrison Ambrose, legislative chairman for the Maryland Federation of Business and Professional Women and also a member of the Woman's Party.

Amelia Himes Walker, past president of the Maryland Branch, National Woman's Party, spoke last Wednesday before the Lanham Study Club of Prince George's County, Maryland, which also endorsed the Amendment.

Women in large numbers belong to Labor Unions and desire to be dealt with as Labor and not as a sex. The proposed Equal Rights Amendment protects this principle.

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GERTRUDE I. GEORGE, Chairman for Equal Rights Petition, Western Region — Director Business Woman's Legislative Council of California; secured 148,000 signatures for Equal Rights Amendment petition for California alone.